

In the Claims:

1-46. (Canceled).

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47. (Previously Presented) A system for use in a telecommunications network for providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of the telecommunications network, said system comprising:

a centralized database comprising a plurality of audio segments, said audio segments comprising announcements to be played to the end user of the telecommunications network;

an audio package builder/export tool adapted to:

access the centralized database;

construct an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database;

construct an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway where in the audio package an audio segment may be located; and

export the audio package to the gateway.

48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 47 wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further adapted to:

construct a catalog file within the audio package, said catalog file comprising information selected from the group consisting of: announcement title, phrasing, prompt text, voice talent, language, codec, format, group, release notes, checkdata, and date recorded.

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49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 47 wherein said index file is adapted to map audio identifiers of the audio segments to an offset and length of the audio segment within the audio package.

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50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 47 wherein said audio package builder/export tool exports the audio package to the gateway over a packet based network.

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51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 47 wherein said system is adapted to operate on a provisioning server.

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52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 47 wherein each of said audio segments comprises a unique audio identifier.

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53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 47 wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further adapted to present a graphical user interface to a user such that the user may select audio segments to be placed in the audio package.

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54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 47 wherein said audio segments file comprises a subset of the audio segments in the centralized database.

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55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 47 wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further adapted to construct an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database by performing one or more of the following steps:
add audio segments to the audio package;
delete audio segments from the audio package; and
lock the audio package.

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56. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 47 wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further adapted to track a version number of any audio packages created with the audio package builder/export tool.

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57. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 47 wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further adapted to export the audio package to the gateway by preliminarily exporting the audio package to an intermediary storage location within a provisioning server.

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58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 47 wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further adapted to export the audio package to the gateway by exporting the audio package to a portable computer readable storage medium.

EU ¹²
~~59.~~ (Previously Presented) A method of providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of a telecommunications network, said system comprising:

- accessing audio segments within a centralized database;
- constructing an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database;
- constructing an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway where in the audio package an audio segment may be located; and
- exporting the audio package to the gateway.

¹³ ~~60.~~ (Previously Presented) The method of claim ¹²~~59~~ further comprising provisioning the centralized database with audio segments.

~~61.~~ (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 further comprising constructing a catalog file within the audio package, said catalog file comprising information selected from the group consisting of: announcement title, phrasing, prompt text, voice talent, language, codec, format, group, release notes, checkdata, and date recorded.

¹⁴ ~~62.~~ (Previously Presented) The method of claim ¹²~~59~~ further comprising mapping audio identifiers of the audio segments to an offset and length of the audio segment within the audio package.

¹⁵ ~~63.~~ (Previously Presented) The method of claim ¹²~~59~~ wherein exporting the audio package to the gateway comprises exporting the audio package over a packet based network.

¹⁶ ~~64.~~ (Previously Presented) The method of claim ¹²~~59~~ further comprising associating each of said audio segments with a unique audio identifier.

¹⁷ ~~65.~~ (Previously Presented) The method of claim ¹²~~59~~ further comprising presenting a graphical user interface to a user such that the user may select audio segments to be placed in the audio package.

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66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim ¹²58 wherein constructing an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database comprises constructing an audio package from a subset of the audio segments in the centralized database.

E1
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67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim ¹²59 wherein constructing an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database comprises one or more of the following steps:
adding audio segments to the audio package;
deleting audio segments from the audio package; and
locking the audio package.

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68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim ¹²59 further comprising tracking a version number of any audio packages constructed.

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69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim ¹²59 wherein exporting the audio package to the gateway comprises exporting the audio package to an intermediary storage location within a provisioning server.

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70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim ¹²59 wherein exporting the audio package to the gateway comprises exporting the audio package to a portable computer readable storage medium.

E2
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71. (New) The system of claim ¹47 wherein said audio package builder/export tool exports the audio package to the gateway so that the gateway may selectively present the audio segments within the audio package to end users.

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72. (New) The system of claim ¹47 wherein said audio package builder/export tool constructs and index file as a distinct data structure within the audio package.